WORLDS UNKNOWN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
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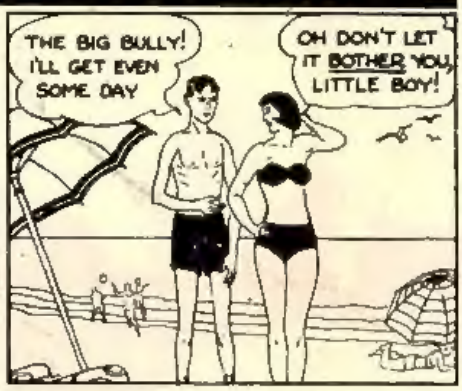
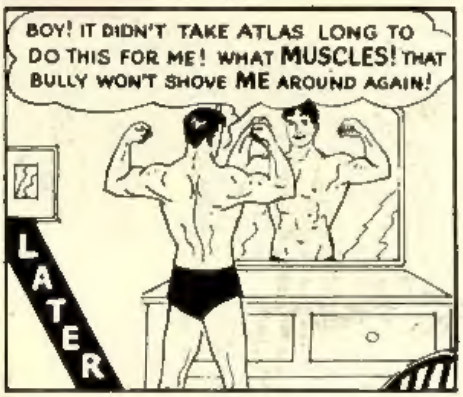
WORLDS
UNKNOWN
A MONSTER STALKS THIS SPACE-SHIP!
A MARVEL MASTERWORK IN THE TRADITION OF TV'S STAR TREK!
BLACK DESTROYER!
A. E. VAN VOGT'S TALE OF TERROR FROM BEYOND THE VOID!

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF "MAC"





Let Me PROVE I Can Make YOU A NEW MAN!

ARE you "fed up" with seeing the huskies walk off with the best of everything? Sick and tired of being soft, frail, skinny or flabby — only HALF ALIVE? I know just how you feel. Because I myself was once a puny 97-pound "runt." And I was so ashamed of my scrawny frame that I dreaded being seen in a swim suit.

The Secret of How I Got My Build

Then I discovered a wonderful way to develop my body fast. It worked wonders for me — changed me from the scrawny "runt" I was at 17, into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." And I can build up YOUR body the very same natural way — without weights, springs or pulleys. Only 15 minutes a day of pleasant practice — in the privacy of your room.

My "Dynamic-Tension" method has already helped thousands of other fellows become real he-men in double-quick time. Let it help YOU. Not next month or next year — but Right NOW!

"Dynamic-Tension" Builds Muscles FAST!

If you're like I was, you want a powerful, muscular, well-proportioned build you can be proud of any time, anywhere. You want the "Greek-God" type of physique that women rave about at the beach — the kind that makes other fellows green with envy.

Mail Coupon Now for My 32-Page Illustrated Book

Mailing the coupon can be the turning point in your life. I'll send you a copy of my 32-page illustrated book, "How Dynamic-Tension Makes You a NEW MAN." Tells how and why my method works; shows many pictures proving what it has done for others. Don't delay. Mail coupon NOW. CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60N 115 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 60 N
115 East 23rd St., New York, N. Y. 10010

Dear Charles Atlas: Here's the kind of Body I Want:

(Check as many as you like)

- ☐ Broader Chest and Shoulders
- ☐ Ironbard Stomach Muscles
- ☐ Tireless Legs
- ☐ Slimmer Waist and Legs
- ☐ More Energy and Stamina
- ☐ More Magnetic Personality
- ☐ More Weight—Solid—In the Right Places

I enclose 10c. Please send me a copy of your famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. 32 Pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. This does not obligate me in any way.

Print Name.....Age.....

Address.....

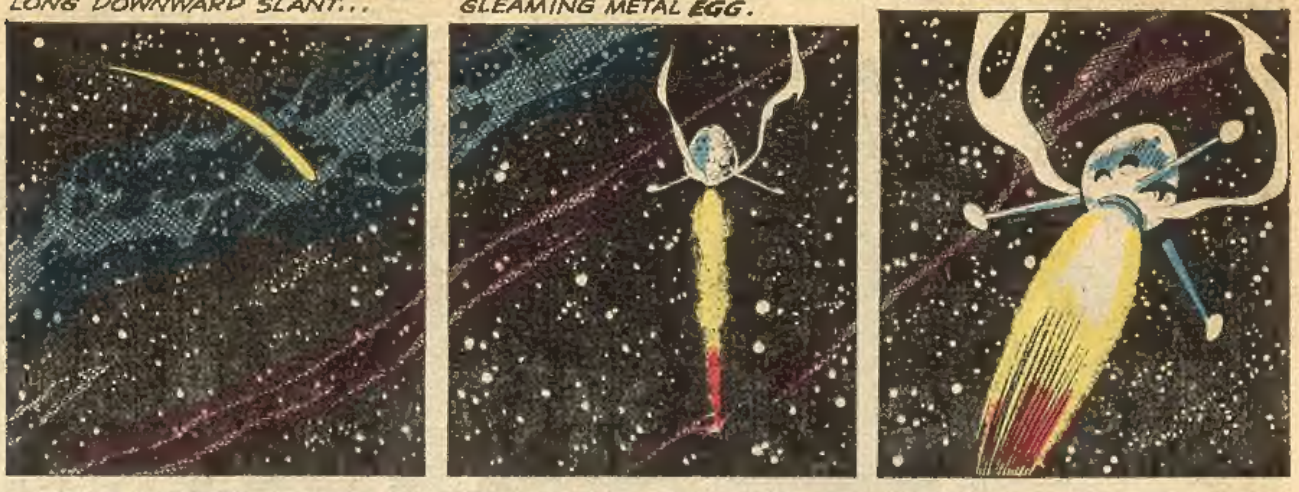
City & State.....Zip Code.....

In England: Charles Atlas, 21 Poland St., London, W.1

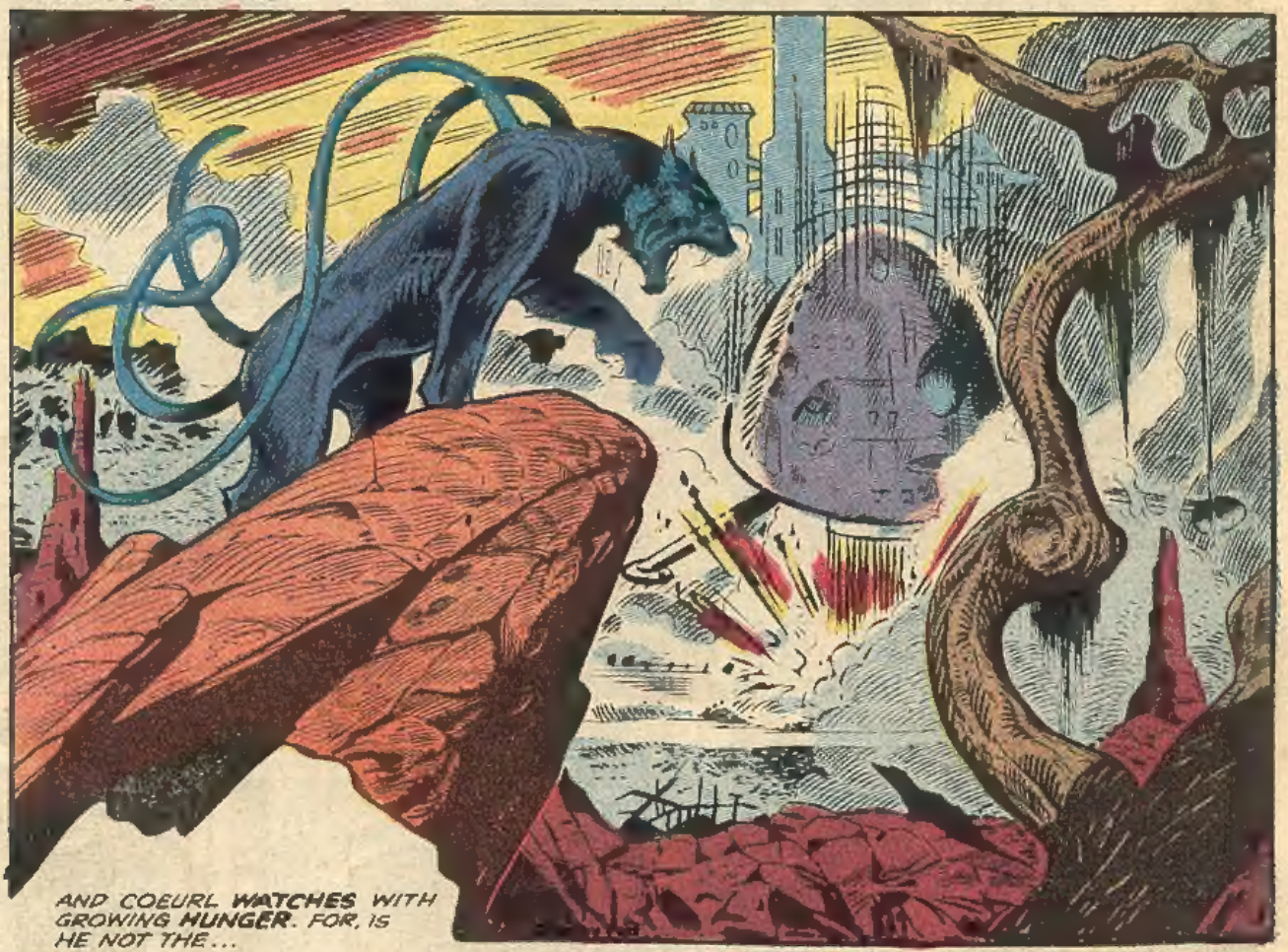
HE SEES IT **EMERGE** OUT OF THE **BLACK MOONLESS NIGHT**, ON A LONG DOWNWARD SLANT...

...A TINY GLOWING SPOT THAT GREW ENORMOUSLY INTO A GLEAMING METAL **EGG**.

IT **HOVERS** ALMOST **MOTION-LESS** FOR A SECOND...



...THEN SINKS ROARING TO THE GROUND, AS A GRIM, REDDISH, COMFORTLESS **DAWN** CREEPS UP FROM **COEURL'S** LEFT.



AND COEURL **WATCHES** WITH GROWING **HUNGER**. FOR, IS HE NOT THE...

BLACK DESTROYER!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: A SINISTER SCIENCE-FANTASY By Roy Thomas SCRIPTER and Adkins & Mooney ARTIST * FROM THE S-F STORY BY A. E. VAN VOGT

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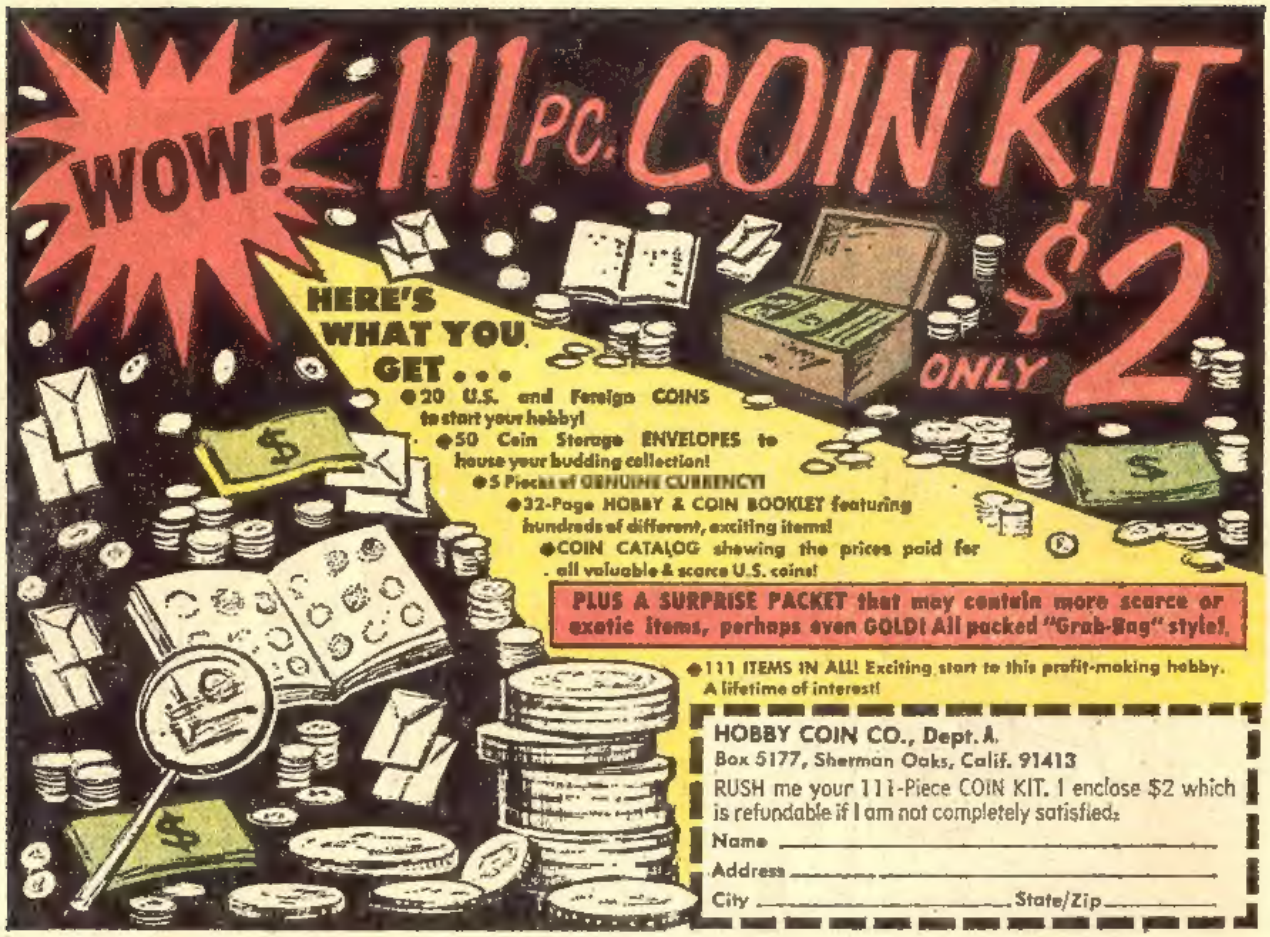
IN SPITE OF ITS GREAT SIZE, THE SILVERY EGG LOOKS STRANGELY SMALL AGAINST THE CRUMBLING, GIGANTIC RUINS THAT SPRAWL BEHIND IT...
... AS IT CAME TO REST ON THE HARSH, RESISTING PLAIN JUST OUTSIDE THE DEAD AND ALIEN METROPOLIS!
AND STILL COEURL MERELY... WATCHES.
BUT HIS EAR TENDRILS VIBRATE WITH THE IMMEDIACY OF HIS NEED...
...AND THE TENTACLES ON HIS BACK GROW TAUT WITH ANXIOUS ALERTNESS...
...AND HIS CAT-LIKE EYES BURNS WITH THE HORRIBLE DESIRE THAT WAS AN AGONY WITHIN HIM.
FIERCELY, HE GAZES AT THE STRANGE, TWO-LEGGED CREATURES WHICH EMERGE FROM THE SHIP'S YAWNING PORT...
EASY, MEN. WE'RE NOT USED TO THE GRAVITY HERE YET.
NEARLY NORMAL, COMMANDER. BUT LOOK AT THOSE RUINS, WILL YOU?
THERE HAS A CIVILIZATION ON THIS PLANET ...SOMETIME.
AND NOW, COEURL SENSES IT--
ID:
WALKING AROUND...
...IN SUCH VAST QUANTITIES...
AND HE HAS WAITED SO LONG. SO LONG!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

WOW! 111 PC. COIN KIT ONLY $2



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I'LL MAKE YOU A MASTER OF KARATE

日本中華民國比賽

WALLACE W. NEUMANN

Author of "SUPER KARATE" and world-famous "authority" on KARATE, is the ONLY instructor in the Northeast U. S. recognized by the International Karate Federation in Tokyo.

I spent 3 years in Japan learning the little-known Oriental art of KARATE and was awarded the 4th Degree Black Belt—symbol of the highest possible proficiency. Now I'm ready to show you every secret I learned—and I guarantee I'll make YOU into a KARATE Specialist within hours—or every cent you paid for my information will be refunded!

You don't have to attend either of my 2 schools where I train men like you and turn them into KARATE experts. No, I can show you how to practice KARATE in the privacy of your own home with only a few minutes of practice a day. I have jam-packed all I know about KARATE into "SUPER KARATE"—profusely illustrated and clearly explained.

In this book I take you step by step through the fundamentals of KARATE so that you understand clearly and immediately how these amazing principles operate to make you master of ANYONE you may meet—no matter how big he is, or how much he weighs!

YOUR BODY IS YOUR PROTECTION!

The result of hundreds of years of development in Japan, KARATE is the Oriental system of self-defense in which you turn your hands, arms and legs into incredibly powerful weapons of attack. When you know how to use KARATE, you disarm and disable your opponent in SECONDS.

When you apply KARATE techniques, you can cut an aggressor down with a blow of the side of your hand. You can toss an attacker from the rear over your shoulder and slam him into the ground. (In fact, a recent photograph in Pageant Magazine shows a 115-lb. girl slamming her 240-lb. instructor into the practice mat!)

With KARATE you can disarm an opponent rushing you with his fists, a broken bottle, a revolver, or any kind of bludgeon. You can turn an aggressor's attack into your advantage with only your bare hands, your arms and your legs.

MASTER EVERY SITUATION

With KARATE you can disarm and disable two, three and even four attackers. You can apply a simple pressure of your thumb and finger against any one of a dozen vital nerve centers of your opponent and watch his gun or knife fall from his limp hand while he himself sinks to the ground completely helpless and faint.

In fact, a knowledge of KARATE will turn you into a NEW MAN even if you never actually have to use it! For you will become self-assured and completely confident of yourself and your ability to handle yourself. You will walk with a determined and confident step . . . you'll look any man in the eye . . . and you'll walk the streets with the knowledge that NOTHING can frighten you—that you can deal with any man, any weapon, any situation—and that you can do all this with NO bodily contact!

100's of Illustrations

only 99¢

Costs ONLY 99¢

You owe it to your own peace of mind—to your loved ones—to be able to defend yourself in these days when attack may come at any time from hoodlums, criminals and "wise guys." So mail coupon NOW for my complete instruction on KARATE—for the amazingly low price of only 99¢ plus 25¢ for postage and handling. If you and your friends don't say KARATE has made a new man out of you, every cent will be refunded!

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only 99¢

INCLUDES ILLUSTRATED KARATE INSTRUCTION PROGRAM! Now you can speed up your knowledge of KARATE and become a champ more quickly than you ever thought possible! You can practice on your own personal KARATE model—just as though you actually had a live partner to work with! Amazingly life-like Giant KARATE PRACTICE DUMMY shows clearly those vulnerable areas which should be attacked. Instantly you know WHERE to attack, while the easy-to-follow instructions included free with your KARATE MODEL show you HOW to attack. You also learn the body's major vulnerable regions, the defense or on-guard position to take, and your body's personal weapons which you can use to deadly effect, such as edge of hand, knee, elbow, etc. Big numbers on DUMMY show you exact location of pressure points and weak spots which you can practice attacking. Order your own personal DUMMY and illustrated KARATE instructions now. Check coupon. Only 99¢ plus 25¢ for postage.

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Order both the SUPER KARATE BOOK and LIFE-LIKE DUMMY for only $1.98 postpaid and SAVE 32c. Just check box in coupon below. We pay all postage. Great Britain 1£.

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- ☐ Rush my copy of SUPER KARATE BOOK in plain wrapper for which I enclose 99c plus 25c for postage and handling (total: $1.25).
- ☐ Rush my life-like Karate DUMMY in plain wrapper, for which I enclose 99c plus 25c for postage and handling (total: $1.25).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

☐ I understand that by studying KARATE I am morally bound and obligated never to practice KARATE as an aggressor (only to defend myself) and will never abuse it.

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Accept our Gift of Glamour free and discover how you can earn up to $25-$50 or more a week in your spare time

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You can earn up to 40% on your orders. Too, as a Blair Dealer you get your own beauty aids and home products at special discount prices.

Mail the coupon today. Don't wait.
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Or, if you decide this is not the kind of career you've been waiting for you may return the kit to us. And, as a gift for letting us tell you about this opportunity you may keep any two items in the kit and the sample Cleaner absolutely FREE.

GIFT OF GLAMOUR worth $8.25 can be yours absolutely free.

Mail the coupon today and as soon as your request has been approved we'll send you your Gift of Glamour that includes:

Moisturized Hand Cream	$1.00
Iced Cologne	$3.00
Creme Sachet	$3.00
Creme Hair Dress	$1.25
Sample bottle Upholstery and Rug Cleaner	Free
Kit Value	$8.25

Send in your first order in 30 days and keep all the contents of the kit. Or, return the kit and keep any two items plus the Upholstery and Rug Cleaner sample FREE as our gift to you.

Mail the coupon today to
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A Division of The Chap Stick Company

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Earns Money for New Wardrobe -
"Selling Blair Quality Products has given me a chance to buy pretty new clothes. This means very much to me. One week I sold $102.00 worth of merchandise in only 3 afternoons."
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"Blair Quality Products sell themselves once people use them. This makes it much easier for the dealer. My family uses Blair Products, too. Selling Blair Products has enabled me to meet new people, renew old friendships and earn extra spending money."
C. W. Clark, Pa.

Gets Over $70 On Very First Order -
"My first order amounted to over $70.00. I enjoy selling Blair products because it gives me extra money, real nice gifts and a chance to visit my friends and neighbors."
Joan Dunn, Ga.

BLAIR Dept. 272AY Lynchburg, Va. 24505

Please *Rush* my Blair Gift of Glamour as soon as my request has been approved. I understand that the whole kit can be mine free if I send in my first order within 30 days. Or, I may keep any two items and the sample bottle of Upholstery and Rug Cleaner in the kit FREE and return the rest to you.

Print

Name_____ Age____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip____

420-1C-825

COEURL COMPREHENDS NONE OF THE NEW-COMERS' MUTTERINGS. STILL...
LOOK OUT!
HERE HE COMES!
AND I'M GOING TO MEET HIM HALF-WAY!
DR. KORITA --STOP!
A BIT LATE, COMMANDER. BUT, IT SEEMS FRIENDLY, IF CAUTIOUS -- LIKE A BIG OVERGROWN CAT.
IT SEEMS UNEASY, THOUGH, WHEN I WAVE MY GUN.
I WONDER IF IT CAN TALK?
I'LL WAGER IT'S TRYING... FROM THE WAY ITS EAR-TENDRILS ARE VIBRATING.
BUT ALL I GET IS STATIC ON MY PERSONAL INTER-COM.
I KNOW I'M EXPEDITION HISTORIAN --AND THIS THING HAS NO HISTORY TO SPEAK OF--
STILL, I WISH WE COULD TAKE HIM BACK TO EARTH WITH US.
WE CAN'T DO THAT, DOCTOR --AND YOU KNOW WHY. IT--
HOLY HANNAH! IT'S HEADING TOWARD THE SHIP!
NOT RUNNING--JUST WALKING--AS IF HE OWNED IT!
WELL, THAT ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION, DR. KORITA.
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR MAIN DIFFI-CULTY WILL COME IF WE DECIDE WE WANT TO GET RID OF HIM.
BUT-- THE ATHMOS-PHERE OF THIS WORLD IS HEAVY ON CHLORINE!
THE OXYGEN INSIDE THE SHIP SHOULD BE PURE DYNAMITE TO THAT THING'S LUNGS!
IN A MINUTE, WE'LL BE PICKING ALIEN PUSSYCAT OFF THE WALLS!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! DR. DOOM BATTLES THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

LED ZEPPELIN 5012 Houses Of The Holy

URIAH HEEP 0208 Live — Mercury 2 LPs & 2 tapes

BETTE MIDLER 5025 The Divine Miss M — Atlantic

STEELY DAN 1010 Can't Buy A Thrill — ABC

Around The World With THREE DOG NIGHT 0764 — ABC Dunhill 2 LPs & 2 tapes

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MOODY BLUES 5616 Seventh Sojourn — Threshold

TEMPTATIONS 6612 Masterpiece — Gordy

NEIL DIAMOND 0566 Hot August Night — MCA 2 LPs & 2 tapes

GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS 6625 Neither One Of Us — Soul

HELEN REDDY 4685 I Am Woman — Capitol

DONNY OSMOND 9243 Alone Together — MGM

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JERRY LEE LEWIS 0212 The Session — Mercury 2 LPs & 2 tapes

FIFTH DIMENSION 7880 Living Together, Growing Together — Bell

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON 5800 Jesus Was A Capricorn — Monument

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MANDRILL 5305 Composite Truth — Polydor

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DAWN 7693 Tuneweaving — Bell

CURTIS MAYFIELD 5556 Superfly — Curtom

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RCA Record/Tape Clubs (as advertised in TV Guide Aug. '72)	NO	12 LPs/ 12 Tapes	$69.95 to $103.85	YES	5 to 6 weeks
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FREE All-Label Lifetime Discount Membership Card, FREE Giant Master Discount Catalog of all readily available records and tapes, plus FREE subscriptions to Disc & Tape Guide magazine and the *AWAREHOUSE* ™ Catalog of hip products. MONEYBACK GUARANTEE IF ITEMS ARE RETURNED WITHIN 10 DAYS! Your order computer processed for EXPRESS SERVICE DELIVERY!

RECORD CLUB OF AMERICA

CLUB HEADQUARTERS / YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17405 V136

YES—Rush me my Lifetime Membership Discount Card, Giant All-Label Master Discount Catalog, plus subscriptions to Disc & Tape Guide Magazine and the AWAREHOUSE ™ Catalog. Also send me the 6 LPs or 5 tapes of my choice indicated below (multiple LP or Tape sets count as number of recordings in each set) with a bill for the Club's standard mailing and handling fee. I enclose a total of $5.99 to cover my $5.00 Lifetime Membership Fee plus 99c for my recordings. I am not obligated to buy any records or tapes ever—no yearly quota. If not completely delighted, I may return above items within 10 days for a complete refund. selections marked with an * are not available on tape.

ENTER 6 LP OR 5 TAPE NUMBERS BELOW —Sorry, no mixing. CP1

IMPORTANT! YOU MUST CHECK ONE: ☐ LP or ☐ 8 TRACK or ☐ CASSETTE

Mr. Mrs. Miss

RT/RR/RD/SR Box or P.O. Box

Street Apt.

City State Zip

APO & FPO Addresses, Please Fill in Your Social Security #

TELL US THE KIND OF MUSIC YOU PREFER BY CHECKING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:
1 ☐ Rock Folk 2 ☐ Easy Listening, Broadway Shows, Movie Soundtracks 3 ☐ Blues-Jazz 4 ☐ Country-Western 5 ☐ Classical 6 ☐ Children's 7 ☐ I like all the above 8 ☐ I have no particular preference.

CANADIANS mail coupon to above address. Orders will be serviced in Canada by Record Club of Canada. Prices and listings may vary slightly

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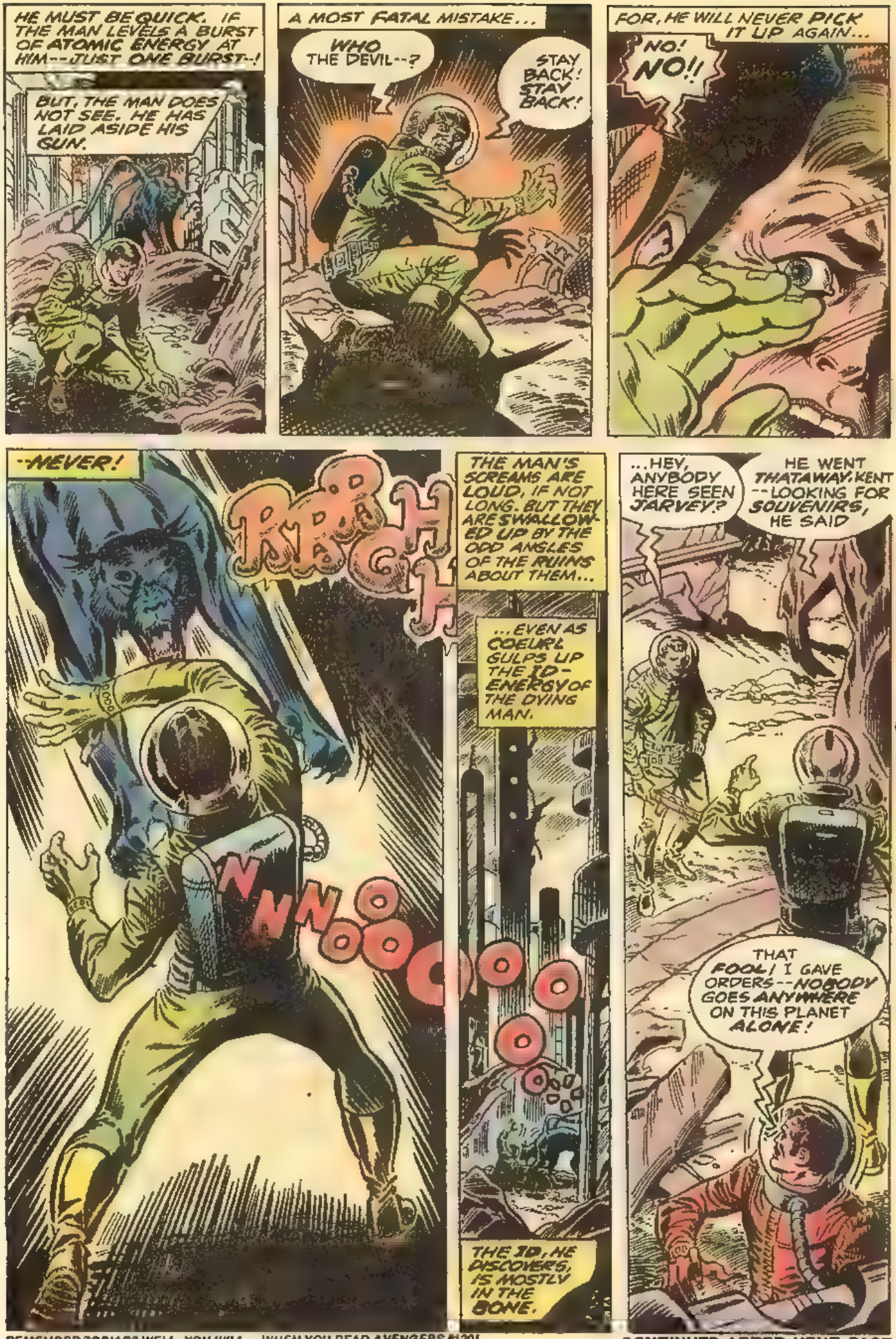
NO! DON'T SHOOT! IT'S OUR FAULT -- DON'T YOU SEE?
RARRR
WE SHOULD HAVE SHOWN HIM HOW THE ELEVATOR WORKS!
AS THE MAN LOWERS HIS WEAPON, SANITY RETURNS ALMOST INSTANTLY TO COEURL -- SANITY, AND ANGER AT HIMSELF.
THEY WILL BE DOUBLY SUSPICIOUS NOW. HE MUST BE CAREFUL...
SEE? HE THOUGHT, FOR A MOMENT, THAT WE HAD DOUBLE-CROSSED HIM.
NOW LET'S GET BACK TO BUSINESS.
COEURL'S WHOLE BODY ACHES NOW, WITH THE HUNGER OF HIS CELLS FOR THE ID OF THESE CREATURES. BUT HE MUST HOLD HIMSELF BACK... JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...
KITTY HERE SEEMED FASCINATED BY OUR SHIP BUT WHY DIDN'T HIS OWN PEOPLE DEVELOP SPACE TRAVEL BEFORE THEY FELL?
YOU FORGET, COMMANDER... THIS IS THE ONLY PLANET IN ITS STAR SYSTEM.
THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO GO IN ONE BIG JUMP -- FROM THIS PLANET, TO ANOTHER STAR.
SMALL WONDER THEY STAYED WHERE THEY WERE -- TILL THE BITTER END.
EVEN IF HE COULD UNDERSTAND THEM, COEURL WOULD HARDLY BE LISTENING NOW, AS HE BEHOLDS ONE OF THE NEW CREATURES WANDER OFF TOWARD THE RUIN..
...ALONE.
THE MAN IS ARMED, SO COEURL IS CAREFUL NOT TO BE SEEN... BY ANYONE.
HE FLOWS LIKE A DEADLY BLACK LIQUID, A SHADOW AMONG SHADOWS.
HE SLOWS TO A CROUCHING LOPE, AS HIS EAR-TENDRILS CATCH THE MAN'S ID-VIBRATIONS.



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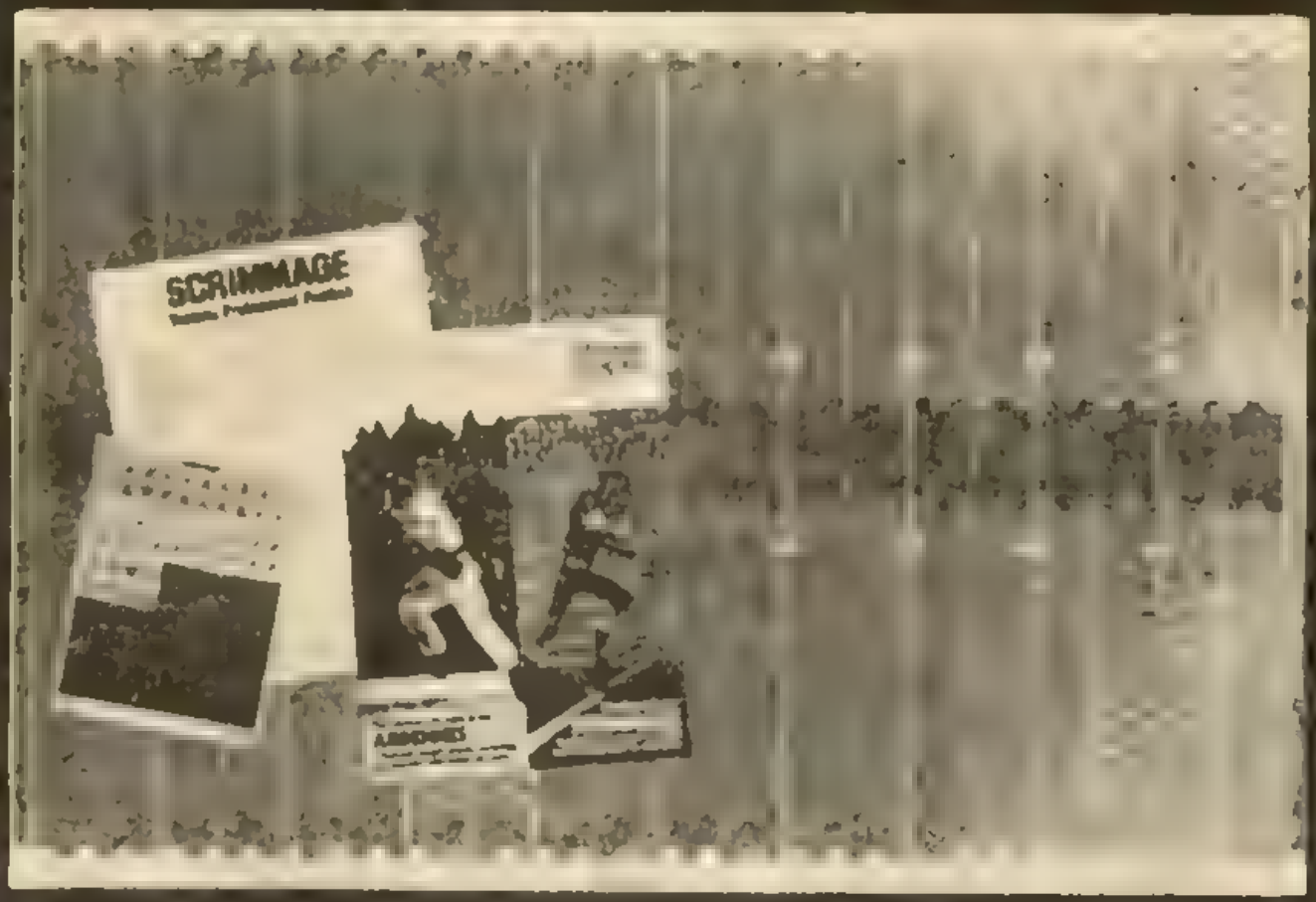

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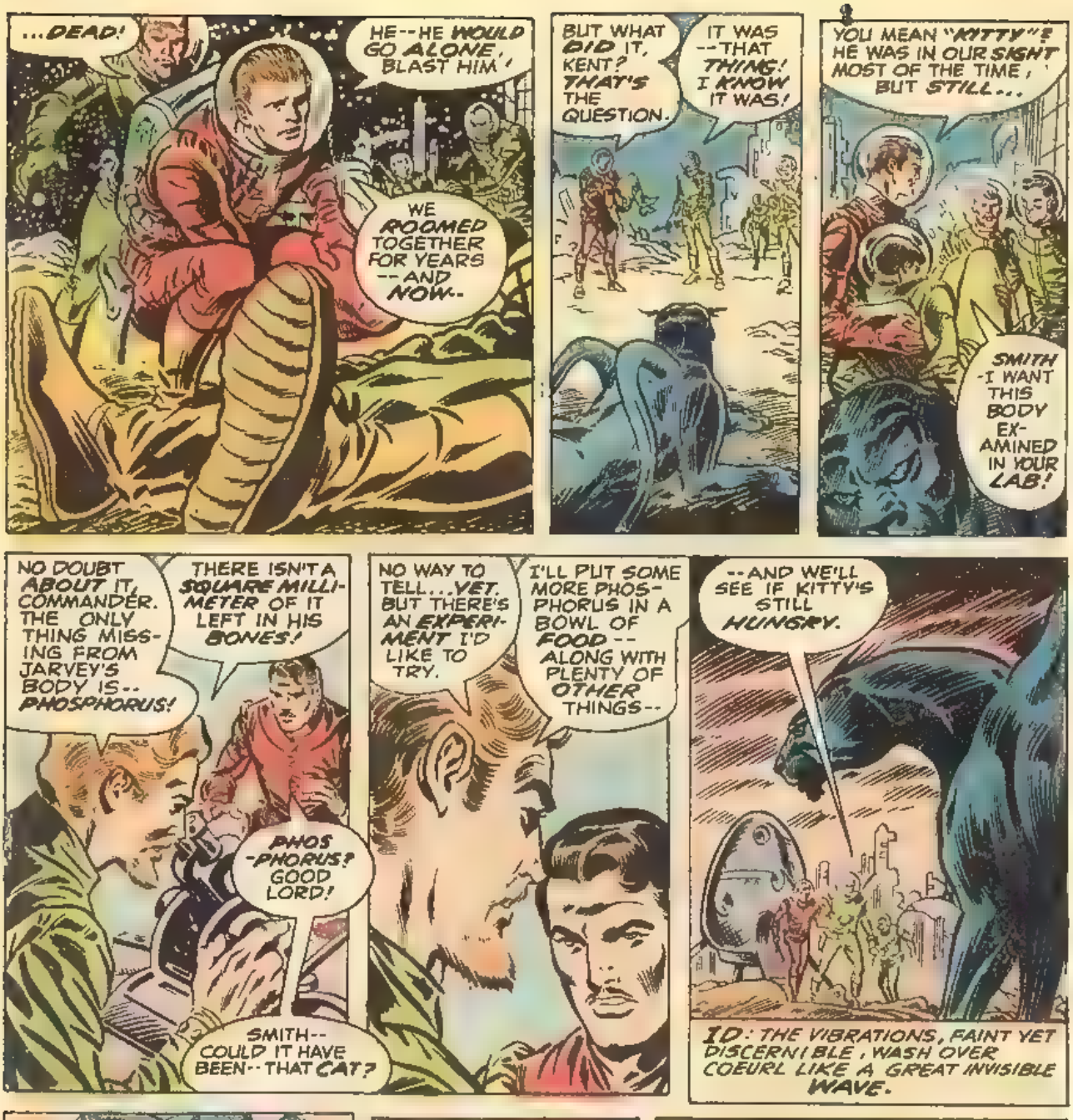

...DEAD!
HE--HE WOULD GO ALONE, BLAST HIM!
WE ROOMED TOGETHER FOR YEARS --AND NOW..
BUT WHAT DID IT, KENT? THAT'S THE QUESTION.
IT WAS --THAT THING! I KNOW IT WAS!
YOU MEAN "KITTY"? HE WAS IN OUR SIGHT MOST OF THE TIME, BUT STILL...
SMITH -I WANT THIS BODY EXAMINED IN YOUR LAB!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, COMMANDER. THE ONLY THING MISSING FROM JARVEY'S BODY IS-- PHOSPHORUS!
THERE ISN'T A SQUARE MILLIMETER OF IT LEFT IN HIS BONES!
PHOS-PHORUS? GOOD LORD!
SMITH-- COULD IT HAVE BEEN-- THAT CAT?
NO WAY TO TELL...YET. BUT THERE'S AN EXPERIMENT I'D LIKE TO TRY.
I'LL PUT SOME MORE PHOSPHORUS IN A BOWL OF FOOD -- ALONG WITH PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS--
--AND WE'LL SEE IF KITTY'S STILL HUNGRY.
ID: THE VIBRATIONS, FAINT YET DISCERNIBLE, WASH OVER COEURL LIKE A GREAT INVISIBLE WAVE.
YET, AS THE BOWL AND ITS CONTENTS ARE SET BEFORE HIM, HE SENSES A TRAP-- DANGER--
--DANGER, IN THE FORM OF THE SMALLER CREATURES STANDING NEAR HIM, WEAPONS AT THE READY...
...AND HE SHOWS, INSTINCTIVELY, HIS SCORN!
PHAP!

SNAPPING A WRITHING TENTACLE ABOUT THE MAN'S WAIST, HE DOESN'T BOTHER WITH THE WEAPON --AS IT IS MERELY A VIBRATION-GUN, NOT AN ATOMIC DISINTEGRATOR.
LOOK OUT! THAT THING'S GRABBED KENT!
HEY WHAAT IN--?
YET, EVEN AS HE HURLS THE MAN FROM HIM, HE KNOWS HE SHOULD HAVE DISARMED HIM --
.. AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!
KORITA SAID I WASN'T SHIP'S EXECUTIONER, COMMANDER.
WELL, I JUST APPOINTED MYSELF --NOW!
ZLAP!
TOO LATE--FOR NOW THESE NEWCOMERS WILL KNOW!
THE VIBE-GUN-- DOESN'T EVEN FAZE HIM!
ZZAP
HE JUST WAVES THOSE WEIRD TEMORILS ON HIS EARS-- AND LAPS THE VIBRATIONS UP LIKE MOTHER'S MILK!
OR LIKE-- PHOSPHORUS, COMMANDER?
STOP FIRING, KENT-- THAT'S AN ORDER!
BUT-- THAT THING'S A KILLER!
WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET-- AND NEITHER DO YOU!
BESIDES, WE'VE GOT INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING HOME A LIVING THING FROM THIS VOYAGE--AND WE CAN'T BE DISTRACTED BY A DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE.
STILL, WE'D BETTER LOCK HIM UP ... IF HE'LL LET US.
SEE? HE'S COMING ALONG-- LIKE SOME TRUSTING ANIMAL.
AND IF FOUR INCHES OF MICRO-STEEL CAN'T HOLD HIM-- WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE HIM THE SHIP.
IN MERE, TADDY.

AS THE DOOR CLANGS SHUT, COEURL'S LIPS PART IN A GRIMACE OF **HATRED**. IF ANY WERE THERE TO READ IT.

YET HE MUST PLAY THE PART OF THE DOCILE, SIMPLE BEAST FOR NOW.

HE MUST BIDE HIS TIME, UNTIL THEIR **SUSPICIONS** ARE LULLED.

IN FACT, AN HOUR LATER, THE **GUARDS** OUTSIDE ARE JUST BEGINNING TO RELAX

...WHEN COEURL FINISHES USING HIS TENDRILS TO PICK THE **ELECTRONIC LOCK**...

...AND BURSTS OUT UPON THEM!

AAARRH!

SAM! IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN-!

THE FIRST MAN FALLS INSTANTLY, BEFORE A RAKING **TALON**.

AND AS FOR THE **SECOND**:

WHRAK!

BUT, COEURL MUST STILL PROCEED **SLOWLY** FOR, HE IS ONLY ONE AGAINST **MANY**.

HE MUST MOVE THE BODIES **AWAY** FROM THE DOOR

KEEP **DOUBTS** ALIVE IN THE MINDS OF THE **OTHERS**

FOR HE KNOWS AT LAST WHAT HE **WANTS**: THE ALIENS' **SPACE SHIP**--AND THUS, FREE PASSAGE BACK TO THEIR **PLANET**--

--WHERE THE SUPPLY OF **3D** - OF **PHOSPHORUS**, MENTALLY EXTRACTED -- WILL SUCCOR HIM FOR A **MILLION YEARS**

SLOWLY, SILENTLY, HE FOLLOWS THE **VIBRATIONS** OF MEN SLEEPING FIND THEIR **QUARTERS**.

ONE MAN SEES HIM **FIRST** AND OPENS HIS MOUTH TO **GIVE THE ALARM**..

...BUT-A CURIOUS **GURGLING** IS THE ONLY SOUND HE HAS TIME TO MAKE -BEFORE HE **DIES**!

THEN, COEURL IS UPON THE REST BEFORE THEY HAVE TIME TO REACH FOR **WEAPONS**..

-EVEN INEFFECTUAL ONES.

IT IS THE SEVENTH TASTE OF MURDER--THE LAST MAN TO FALL--THAT BRINGS A SUDDEN RETURN OF THE ID-LUST--A PURE, UNBOUNDED DESIRE TO KILL EVERY THING THAT CONTAINS THE PRECIOUS SUBSTANCE

BUT, HE IS STILL ONE, ALONE AGAINST MANY. HE MUST KEEP THE HUMANS CONFUSED--UNCERTAIN OF HIS GUILT--

FOR JUST SO LONG AS THEY ARE UNCERTAIN, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK ON HIM AS A SPECIMEN--TOO VALUABLE TO BE DESTROYED WITHOUT PROOF.

AND SO, HE RETURNS TO HIS "CAGE"--AND LOCKS HIMSELF IN

IT IS THEN THAT HE BEGINS TO PURR.

...SIEGLE GONE ...BRECKENRIDGE, AND COULTER, AND--HORRIBLE!

IT CAN'T BE SPACE MADNESS. ASTRONAUTS GOT OVER THAT CENTURIES AGO.

YOU KNOW THE ANSWER. YOU ALL DO--BUT YOU REFUSE TO ADMIT IT!

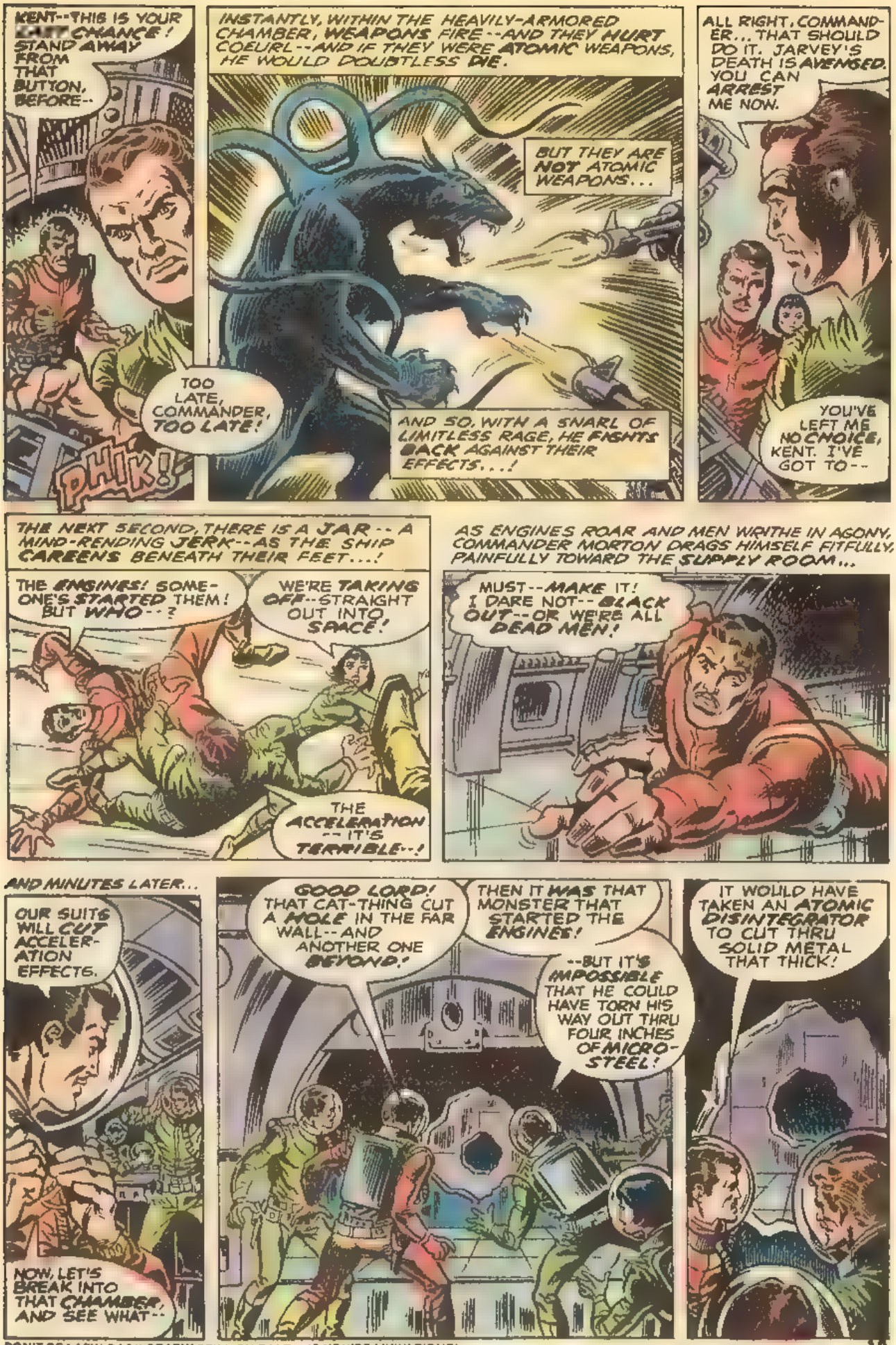
IT WAS--THAT THING!

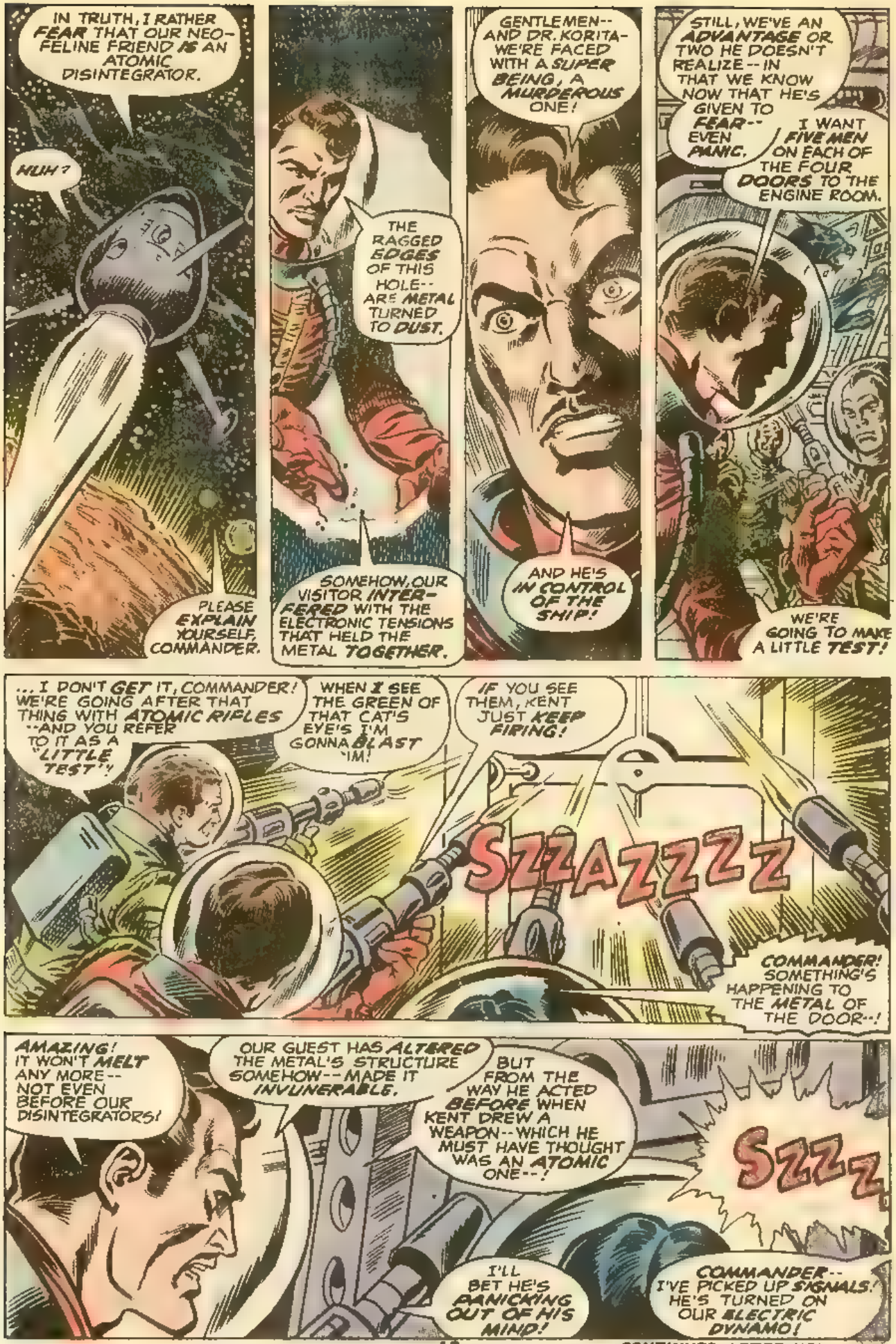
AND I'M GOING TO SAVE WHAT'S LEFT OF US--BY DESTROYING HIM--BEFORE HE KILLS US ALL!

KENT--STOP! I ORDER YOU TO--

BUT KENT IS BEYOND ORDERS NOW, AS HE HURLS HIMSELF AGAINST THE LEVER WHICH ACTIVATES THE PROTECTIVE WEAPONRY WITHIN COBURN'S CHAMBER

THE CREATURE STIRS, AS GRIM METAL BARRELS PROTRUDE FROM THE WALL--POINT MENACINGLY AT HIM--


KENT--THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! STAND AWAY FROM THAT BUTTON, BEFORE--
TOO LATE, COMMANDER, TOO LATE!
PHIK!
INSTANTLY, WITHIN THE HEAVILY-ARMORED CHAMBER, WEAPONS FIRE--AND THEY HURT COEURL--AND IF THEY WERE ATOMIC WEAPONS, HE WOULD DOUBTLESS DIE.
BUT THEY ARE NOT ATOMIC WEAPONS...
AND SO, WITH A SNARL OF LIMITLESS RAGE, HE FIGHTS BACK AGAINST THEIR EFFECTS...!
ALL RIGHT, COMMANDER... THAT SHOULD DO IT. JARVEY'S DEATH IS AVENGED. YOU CAN ARREST ME NOW.
YOU'VE LEFT ME NO CHOICE, KENT. I'VE GOT TO--
THE NEXT SECOND, THERE IS A JAR--A MIND-RENDING JERK--AS THE SHIP CAREENS BENEATH THEIR FEET...!
THE ENGINES! SOMEONE'S STARTED THEM! BUT WHO--?
WE'RE TAKING OFF--STRAIGHT OUT INTO SPACE!
THE ACCELERATION--IT'S TERRIBLE--!
AS ENGINES ROAR AND MEN WRITHE IN AGONY, COMMANDER MORTON DRAGS HIMSELF PITFULLY, PAINFULLY TOWARD THE SUPPLY ROOM...
MUST--MAKE IT! I DARE NOT--BLACK OUT--OR WE'RE ALL DEAD MEN!
AND MINUTES LATER...
OUR SUITS WILL CUT ACCELERATION EFFECTS.
NOW, LET'S BREAK INTO THAT CHAMBER, AND SEE WHAT--
GOOD LORD! THAT CAT-THING CUT A HOLE IN THE FAR WALL--AND ANOTHER ONE BEYOND!
THEN IT WAS THAT MONSTER THAT STARTED THE ENGINES!
--BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE COULD HAVE TORN HIS WAY OUT THRU FOUR INCHES OF MICRO-STEEL!
IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN AN ATOMIC DISINTEGRATOR TO CUT THRU SOLID METAL THAT THICK!



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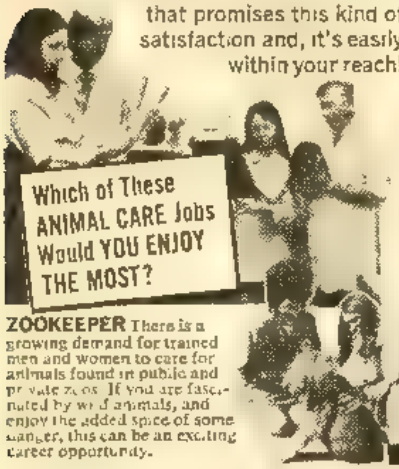

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--AND IN ITS PLACE, SOMETHING APPEARS--GROWING NEARER, LARGER--

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LARGER IT GROWS BEFORE HIM--AND LARGER STILL--THE VERY SHIP HE LEFT, NOT LONG AGO!

HOW CAN SUCH MADNESS BE?

SOMETHING HAPPENS TO COEURL IN THIS MOMENT--HAPPENS TO HIS LONG-ALONE MIND--HIS BRAIN SPINS--!

HE KNOWS, IN A BRIEF FLASH OF SANITY, THAT HE CANNOT FACE THE INEVITABLE FIRE OF AN ATOMIC DISINTERGRATOR.

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IN OTHER WORDS, TO COMMIT --

--SUICIDE! HE LIES DEAD, IN A POOL OF PHOSPHORUS.

POOR KITTY! HOW COULD HE KNOW OF ANTI-ACCELERATION--WHEN HIS PEOPLE NEVER CONQUERED OUTER SPACE?

HE COULDN'T KNOW THAT, JUST BY STOPPING, WE FLASHED PAST HIM AT MILLIONS OF MILES PER SECOND-

--WHILE IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM THREE HOURS TO DE-CELERATE!

SO HE PANICKED --AND KILLED HIMSELF!

ALL RIGHT, STEERSMAN, TURN THIS SHIP AROUND.

WE'RE HEADING --HOME!

-fin-

NOTE: FOR A FULL EXPLANATION OF THIS TALE'S TWIST ENDING, SEE OUR LANDMARK LETTERS PAGE. MEAN WHILE, DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE'S FAR-OUT THRILLER--

THE DAY of the TRIFFIDS!

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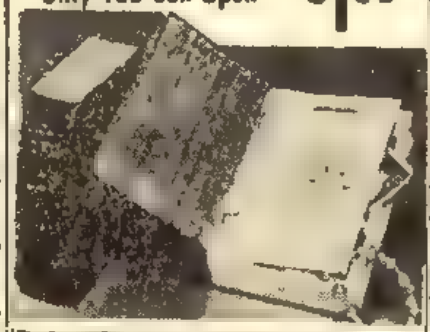

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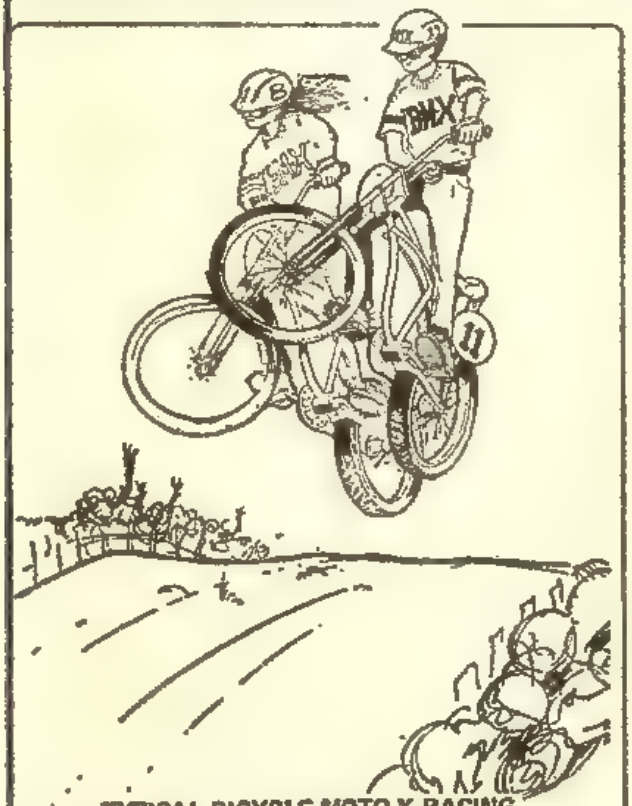

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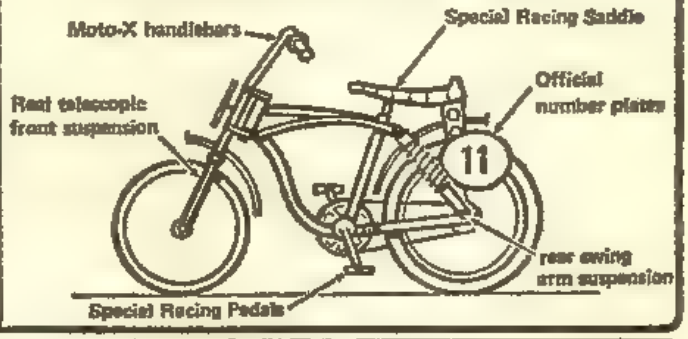

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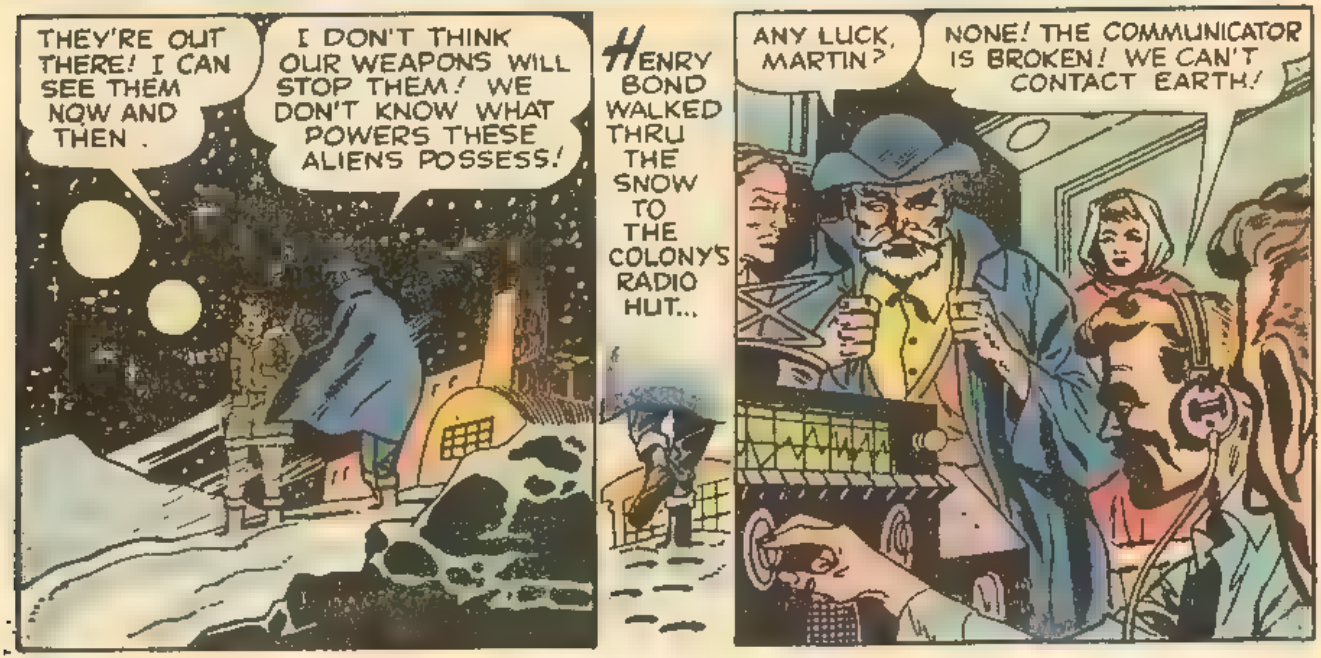
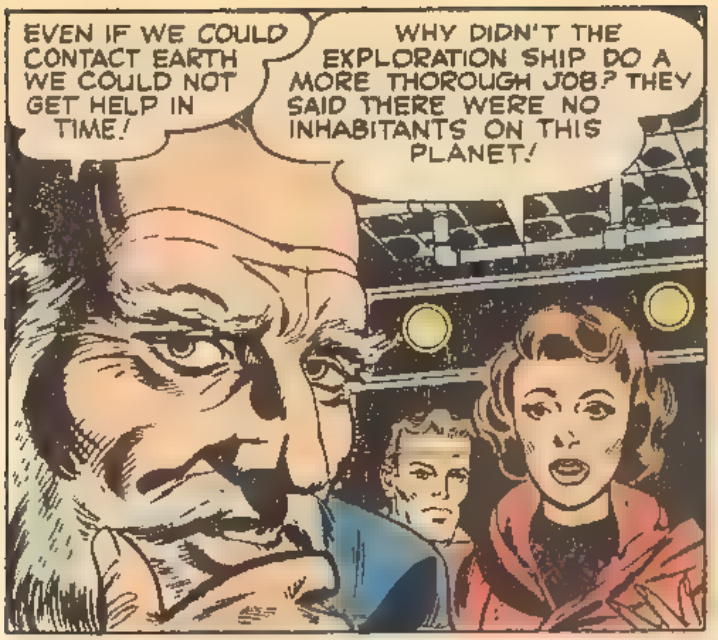
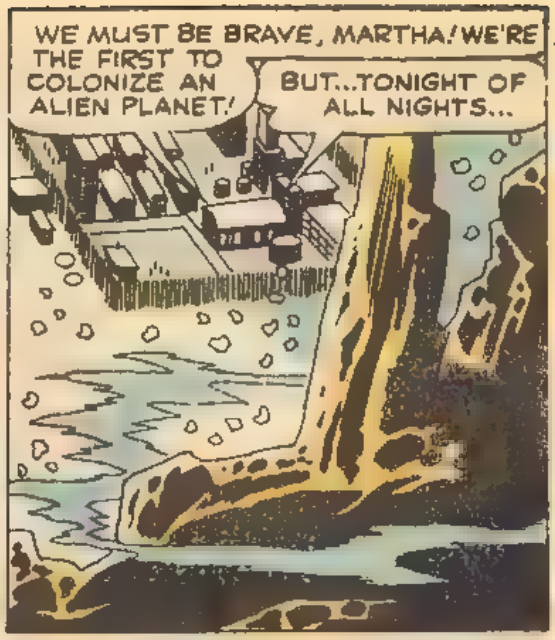
THE SNOW FELL SILENTLY ON THE ALIEN PLANET! THE NIGHT WAS SILENT! THE EARTH COLONISTS WAITED, STRANGERS ON A STRANGE PLANET, BEGINNING A NEW EXISTENCE ON A NEW PLANET! OR *WERE* THEY THE BEGINNING OF A *NEW LIFE*?

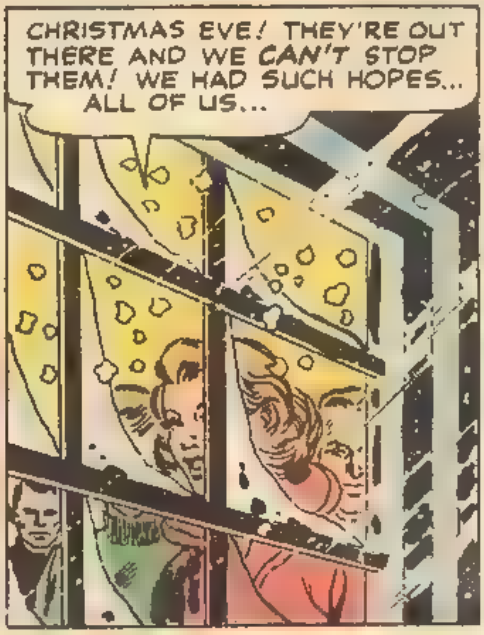
THEY LOST THE STARS!



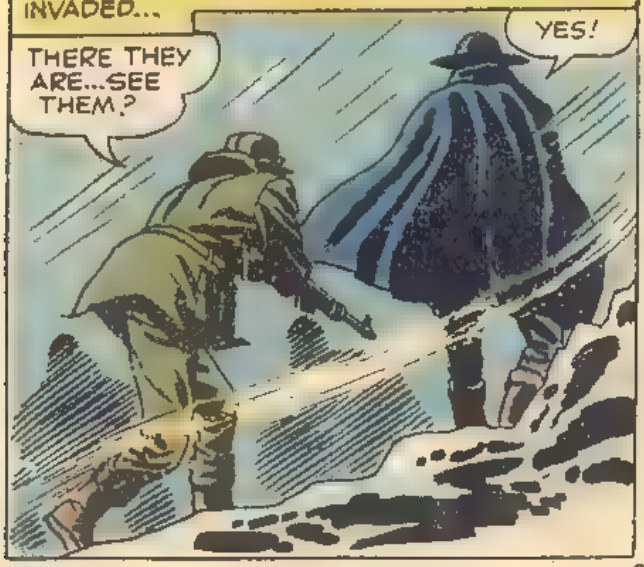




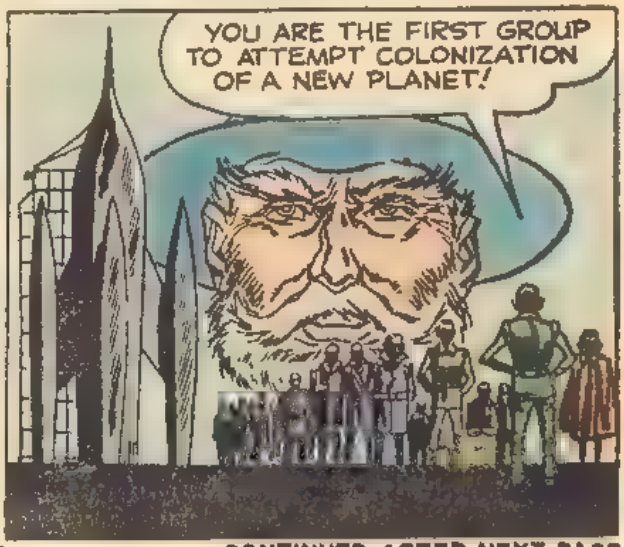
ALL EYES TURNED TO THE CALENDAR! IT WAS DECEMBER 24, 2064!



HENRY BOND SAW THE SHIFTING SHAPES OF THE HUMANOIDS WHOSE PLANET THEY HAD INVADED...



HIS THOUGHTS WENT BACK A YEAR AGO TO EARTH WHEN THEY GATHERED AT THE SPACESHIP...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

PLAUDITS, PRONOUNCEMENTS, AND JUST PLAIN PLUGS – PONTIFICALLY PRESENTED!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This one's for you older Marvelites, for the True Believers who've been with us lo these many years. Remember how we used to rap about the fact that so many people thought comic-books were just for kids? And remember how I'd clue you in to Marvel's greatest crusade — to your Bullpen's vow to change that image — to give the comic-book its rightful place within the media — to have it fully accepted as one of the most powerful, most viable forms of communication the world has ever known? Remember how we'd pledge never to rest till the intellectual community bestowed upon the comic-book all the attention and the recognition it has so rightfully earned?

Well, I guess you know what I'm leading up to. We may not yet be all the way home, but we're mighty close. Never before have so many newspapermen, disc jockeys, college students, musicians, sports figures, and other assorted full-grown adult types been so fanatically tuned-in to the wondrous world of Marvel! Never before have we received such massive mountains of mail from so many campuses throughout the free world! In fact, within the past few months alone, yours truly just finished a whirlwind college lecture tour, speaking at Iowa State, Bennington College, Allegheny, Montana State, the University of Delaware, and Northwestern U., just to name a few. Never have I seen more enthusiasm, more excitement, or more ebullient interest — interest in the stories, the illustrations, the conception — everything in fact that has to do with the production and the philosophy of your friendly neighborhood Marvel mags!

So, on behalf of your breathless, blushin' Bullpen, let me thank each and every one of you for helping us make a dream come true. Yea verily, you and we together have transformed yesterday's feckless little "funny books" into one of today's most widely-hailed art forms — and Marvel loves ya for it!

Excelsior!

Stan

P.S. Please spare our poor little overworked secretary. If there's any campus I may have bypassed, send your lecture request directly to American Program Bureau, 850 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill, Boston, Mass. 02167. They just love to open mail!

S.L.

ITEM! All right, sahib — it's *teaser time!* See if you can guess just what this thing is, smack dab in the middle of our bombastic Bulletin Page (besides a picture of the ever-incredible *Hulk*, that is) — and why we stuck it there, anyhow!

Sorry, we can't let the cat (or ol' Greenskin) out of the bag till *next issue* — but at that time, we promise you a zingier bargain than you ever saw on "Let's Make a Deal"! And while you're waiting, why not send us your *guesses* as to what it is! Who knows? Even if you don't figure out quite what *we're* planning to lay on you come Christmastime, you're just liable to give us some far-out new ideas we never thought of!

ITEM! Oh, and lest we forget: Here's this month's immortal message about an upcoming epochal event in one of our mags. It's in our very own *Spider-Man* Code, and it goes like this:

RQF ILFBSHFXY UJDTUF
EFIRQ SO LIGXSVW — VSHDJP
BSSJ DJ RQF QUXW!

By the way, in case you're wondering why we've been using Spidey Code for the past few months, it's because that's the only one revealed to date in the pages of our special FOOM Magazine, which is sent out as an extra bonus to everybody who joins the wildest, wayoutest fan club in comics history. But, more codes are coming up fast, 'cause even as we speak, jaunty JIM STERANKO is putting the finishing touches on our *fourth* fabulous issue.

If you're not yet a member of FOOM — why fool yourself? You're gonna join up sooner or later anyway, once the word gets back to you on what you're missing! Why not make it *sooner* — 'cause the way our ranks are filling up, there sure aren't gonna be any back issues of FOOM Magazine available for long! A word to the wise . . . !

ITEM! Starting next month: A *full page* of Bullpen Bulletins — *plus* a brand-new Bullpen Bonus Page, with nutty items about our giant 75¢ titles, eye-catching new FOOM ads and items — and just about anything else that catches our fancy! 'Nuff said!

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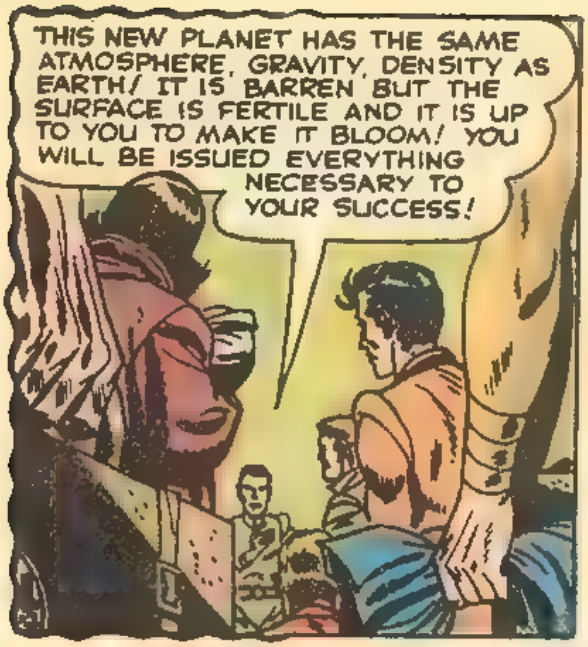
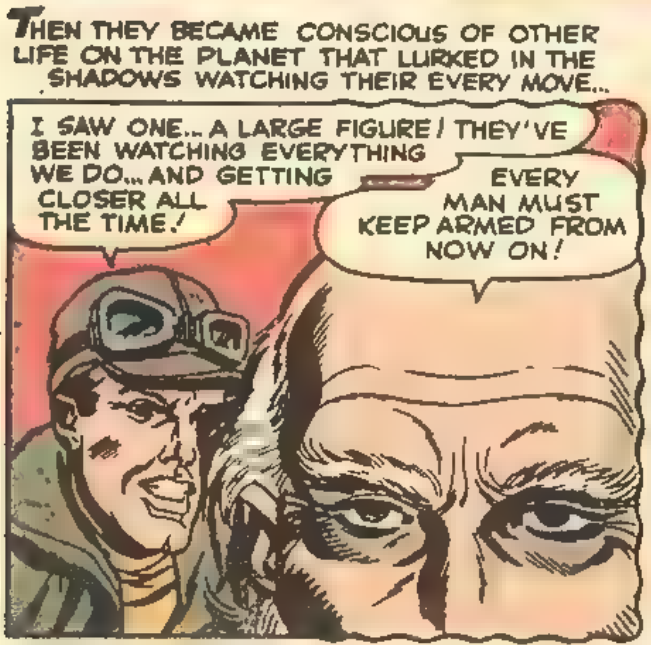
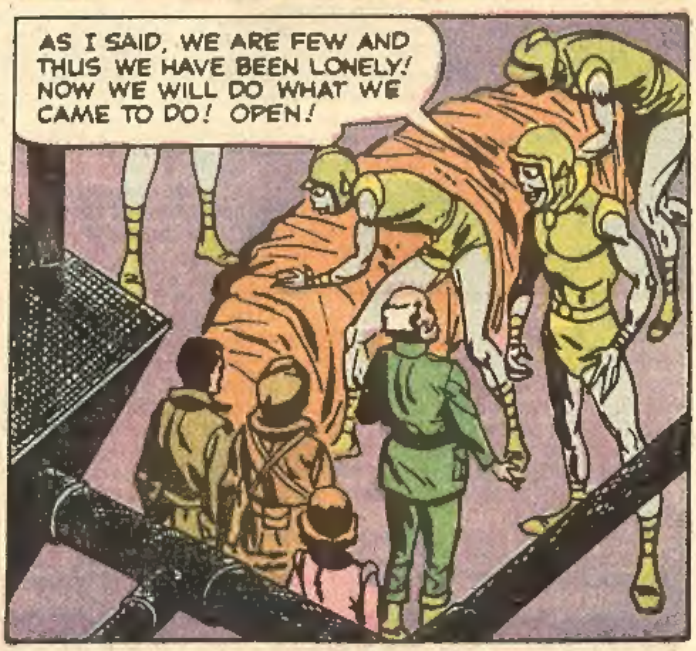


THEY LISTENED, THIS SMALL GROUP, WITH STRENGTH AND PURPOSE ENOUGH TO SEEK A NEW FUTURE IN THE STARS...





AS THE HUGE PACKAGE WAS UNWRAPPED, A CHANGE CAME OVER THE COLONISTS' FACES. EAGER HOPE FLAMED IN THEIR EYES... A CHRISTMAS TREE, ARTIFICIAL BUT COMPLETE, STOOD REVEALED!

ALIEN WORLD, ALIEN VOICES RAISED IN SONG, BLENDING WITH HUMAN VOICES, AND THE SNOW FELL SOFTLY OVER THE GOOD LAND!

WORDS UNKNOWN!

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SPECIAL SCIENCE-FICTIONAL NOTE:
We thought we'd try something a wee bit different this time, people.

Originally, Roy Thomas and Dan Adkins planned this story as a complete co-effort. Later, for various reasons, the Dapper One was unable to finish more than layouts on the entire tale, and Jungle Jim Mooney courageously stepped in to help us finish the job on time. As a result, Roy didn't have a chance (in scripting the story) to make a few changes which would give him room at the end to explain the pseudo-scientific twist which s-f master A. E. Van Vogt tossed in to these several decades ago.

Anyway, rather than let you suffer deprivation or an inadequate explanation, Roy decided to ask his longtime acquaintance and s-f fan par excellence Don Thompson, of Mentor, Ohio, to write a letter explaining the whole magilla. Mainly 'cause, truth to tell, when Roy finished his scripting chores, he still wasn't quite sure he understood it himself.

Don, it turns out, though a member of the Science Fiction Writers of America himself, had to turn to his talented wife Maggie for support— and their joint answer follows:

Dear Roy:

The point of BLACK DESTROYER was that the alien, Coeurl, was a primitive; he operated on instinct, not on the basis of intellectual reasonings and knowledge. He didn't know how things work (though he could put working things together to function for him, as when he made a little spaceship by combining pieces from the large spaceship).

Coeurl, then, didn't know and couldn't work out the details of any navigation except that which had always come naturally to him in his life on his own planet. He had always navigated by aiming at what he saw and going till he got there.

Remember, he lived all his life on a planet which had no moon, no planetoids, and no neighboring planets; aside from his planet's sun, the nearest object was 900 light-years away. He had NO idea that planets move, much less that the universe is moving, much less that ALL concepts of travel he had used go out the window when travelling at faster-than-light speeds.

In order to get from the big spaceship to his own planet, Coeurl needed to know space navigation—that he had to decelerate three hours before reaching the planet. He zipped right by his planet by aiming his ship where the planet where the planed had been when he began. He was fouled up by the motion of the planet, by the time-lag caused by the time it took light from the planet to reach him, and by the visual distortions of faster-than-light travel. It faded because of distortions of the faster-than-light flight; it vanished when he got a real view of what was actually where the planet had been—which was nothing.

The humans' ship had anti-accelerators, but Coeurl didn't know about them, since they weren't turned on till after he'd left the ship. That was the point at which "he had the... impression that just before it disappeared, it moved." The anti-accelerators made it possible for the humans' ship to come to a screeching halt without plastering the entire crew all over the ship with the incredible stop from much-faster-than-light speeds. But they stopped relative to everything including the movement of the galaxy.

So there you have it. The humans came to a screeching halt. One possible layout of the situation, then, would have the ship sitting in space. Zip—and by them sped (at some tangent or other) the planet of Coeurl's origin. Zip—and by them rushed the little ship with Coeurl, going swiftly but not nearly as swiftly as they were going by letting everything else go by them, stopping absolutely with reference to the rest of the universe.

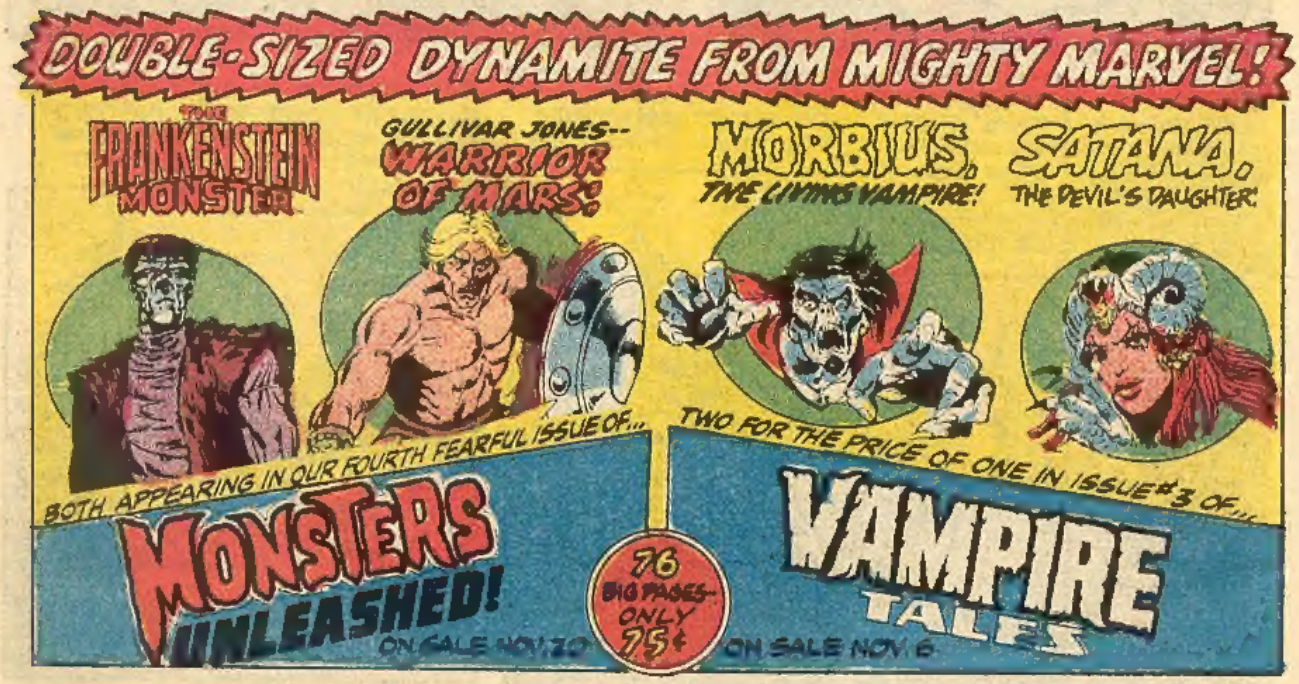
So, suddenly, they were ahead of Coeurl—and began moving again, just as suddenly, becoming visible. But they were in front of Coeurl, this time—and he (confused, frightened, and furious) destroyed himself.

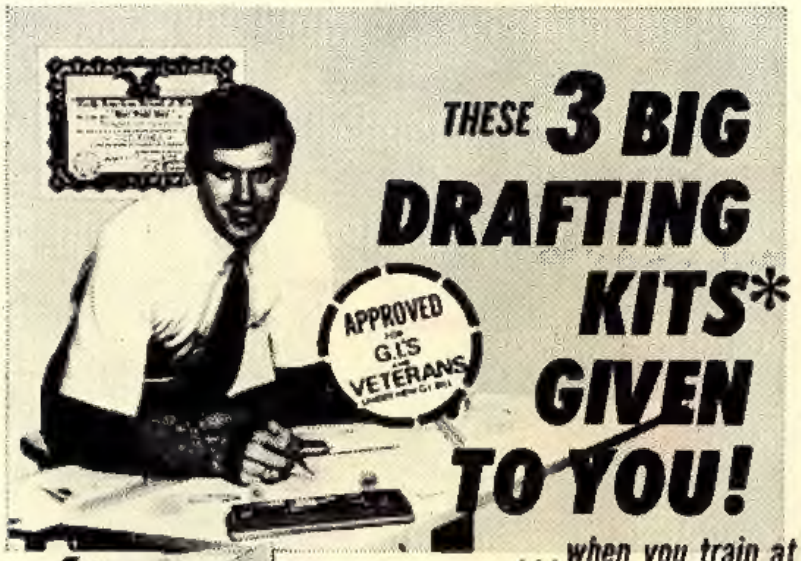
Van Vogt's science can be argued with, but the story was a great success when it appeared (in 1939) and it is still a powerful one.

Best,
Don & Maggie Thompson

Sorry that our letters on issue #4 ("Farewell to the Master," on which the movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still" was based) were crowded out by all the pseudo-technology, but we'll try to sift some random comments from the mountain of mail we received on that issue by the next WORLDS UNKNOWN, at which time Gerry Conway will be adapting John Wyndham's monumental s-f thriller, The Day of the Triffids.

What's a Triffid, you say? Don't ask. Don't dare ask!

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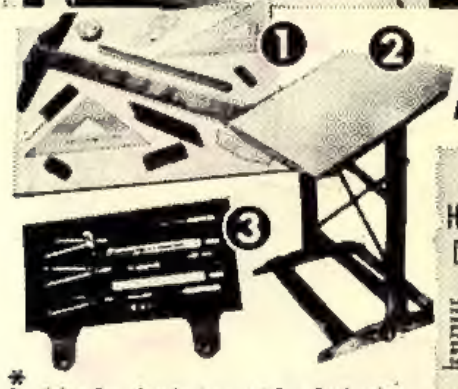

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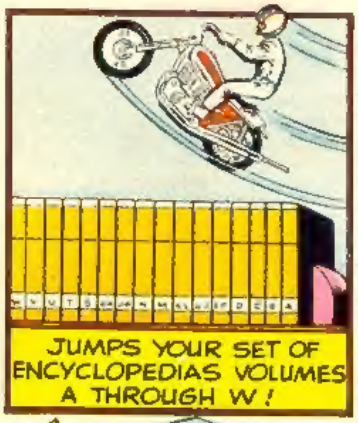

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